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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord most holy, we confess to You our unworthiness. Grant that we may, every day, crave those dispositions which shall make us worthy to be called Your children.

Bless our Senators. Guide them so that in all getting, they will receive understanding. Whatever they lose, may they retain Your favor, growing in grace and in a deeper knowledge of You. Give them a hunger to know Your sacred word and a willingness to follow Your precepts.

Grant that those who seek the right way will be led by Your hand. May those who experience setbacks be lifted by Your mercy and know the restoration of Your joy. Consecrate, with Your presence, the road our lawmakers travel, and lead them to Your desired destination.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 1, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today there will be 30 minutes of morning business, and it will all be under the control of the Republicans. Following that time, the Senate will resume consideration of the children's health bill and then conduct 30 minutes of debate with respect to the Ensign amendment. That time will be equally divided and controlled between Senators ENSIGN and BAUCUS. Upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate will vote in relation to the Ensign amendment. Following the disposition of the Ensign amendment, the managers hope to come to a short agreement with respect to the Gregg amendment and have a vote shortly thereafter. Senator BYRD is to be recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes at 12 noon. Other votes with respect to the bill are expected today.

Mr. President, we have two major amendments we have been told exist with respect to this children's health legislation. One will be offered by Senator KERRY, which is going to increase the amount of money we believe is needed in this legislation. The other is by Senators LOTT and KYL, which is a

substitute amendment. I hope those Senators who are going to offer those amendments will come and do them quickly. We need these two amendments. That is what this legislation is all about. Other individuals also have a right to offer amendments, but I do hope those two amendments will be offered very quickly. We need to finish this bill. We are going to finish this bill before we leave.

Of course, everybody knows we have, in the morning, the cloture vote on ethics and lobbying. We will do that an hour after we come in in the morning. I very much appreciate the willingness of the minority to work with us and that we didn't have to go—because it was a privileged piece of legislation that came from the House, that we didn't have to waste time from last night until tomorrow morning. I appreciate very much the Republicans allowing us to work on this legislation today. It would have been a wasted day otherwise.

I hope we can get a lot of work done on SCHIP today. I will speak with Senator MCCONNELL as to when, if at all—and I hope it is not necessary—we will file cloture on SCHIP to finish it. I hope we don't have to do that. We had good luck last week on the first appropriations bill and not having to do that.

We have one other must-do item before we leave here, and that deals with the surveillance program that everybody has read about and knows about. That has to be done. I had a briefing meeting with Admiral McConnell this morning, and he has sent some proposed changes to the legislation up here. It is already here. We hope that will be enough to have that legislation pass quickly. I hope we can get it done. It is something on which we all acknowledge we should give it the old college try and do everything we can to complete that.

Those are the things we must do.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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